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IN THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims including mark-ups.

Please amend Claims 13 and 30.

Please cancel Claims 1-12, 25-29, and 41-42.

1.-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) An apparatus for transplanting a hair graft, comprising:  
a housing including an actuator chamber and a hair graft chamber with an open distal end, the hair graft chamber for housing a loaded hair graft;

~~a vacuum source operably coupled to the housing to provide suction at the open distal end for drawing a hair graft into the hair graft chamber through the open distal end;~~

a gas-permeable rod inside the housing, an end of the rod being movable to a position along a central axis of the housing;

a vacuum source operably coupled to the housing to provide suction through the gas-permeable rod and at the open distal end for drawing a hair graft into the hair graft chamber;  
and

an actuator to move the end of the rod substantially flush with the open distal end so that the loaded hair graft is delivered to a scalp wound.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the vacuum source is operably coupled to the actuator chamber for loading a hair graft into a spacing within the hair graft chamber defined by an end of the rod and the open distal end.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising means for communicating with a side aperture in the actuator chamber for creating a vacuum within the hair graft chamber.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the means for communicating includes a control element which applies or releases vacuum to the hair graft chamber.

17. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the end of the rod is movable between a first position and a second position, wherein, with the end of the rod in the first

position, the housing provides a spacing between the end of the rod and the open distal end of the housing to receive a hair graft, and wherein, with the end of the rod in the second position, the end of the rod is substantially flush with the open distal end of the housing, so that the hair graft is delivered to a scalp wound.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the actuator includes a plunger connected to the rod, the plunger being able to move the end of the rod to the first position from the second position or to the second position from the first position.

19. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the actuator includes a piston inside the actuator chamber.

20. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the actuator includes a plunger connected to the piston.

21. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the actuator includes a biasing spring operably coupled to the piston.

22. (original) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the biasing spring is operative to move the end of the rod to the first position from the second position.

23. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a projection connected to the hair graft chamber, the projection extending in parallel to the central axis and beyond the open distal end of the housing.

24. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a projection connected to the end of the rod, the projection extending in parallel to the central axis and beyond the end of the rod.

25.- 29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) An apparatus for transplanting a hair graft, comprising:

a housing including a hair graft chamber with an open distal end, the hair graft chamber for housing a loaded hair graft;

~~a vacuum source operably coupled to the housing to provide suction at the open distal end for drawing a hair graft into the hair graft chamber; and~~

a gas-permeable rod inside the housing, an end of the rod being movable to a position along a central axis of the housing for loading or delivering the hair graft; and

a vacuum source operably coupled to the housing to provide suction through the gas-permeable rod and at the open distal end for drawing a hair graft into the hair graft chamber.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the hair graft chamber includes a spacing defined by an end of the rod and the open distal end.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, further comprising an actuator operably coupled to the rod.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the end of the rod is movable between a first position and a second position, wherein, with the end of the rod in the first position, the housing provides a spacing between the end of the rod and the open distal end of the housing to receive a hair graft, and wherein, with the end of the rod in the second position, the end of the rod is substantially flush with the open distal end of the housing, so that the hair graft is delivered to a scalp wound.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the actuator includes a plunger connected to the rod, the plunger being able to move the end of the rod to the first position from the second position or to the second position from the first position.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the actuator includes a piston inside an actuator chamber.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the actuator includes a plunger connected to the piston.

37. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the actuator includes a biasing spring operably coupled to the piston.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 37, wherein the biasing spring is operative to move the end of the rod to a first position from a second position.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, further comprising a projection connected to the hair graft chamber, the projection extending in parallel to the central axis and beyond the open distal end of the housing.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, further comprising a projection connected to the end of the rod, the projection extending in parallel to the central axis and beyond the end of the rod.

41.-42. (canceled)